

Message Text

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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL MONDAY,
DECEMBER 27, HEADED "TENSION IN POLAND."

2. POLAND'S COMMUNIST REGIME AND ITS PROTECTORS IN MOSCOW
ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF FEELING UNDER PRESSURE FROM RISING
DISCONTENT. THE KREMLIN RECENTLY GRANTED POLISH PARTY
CHIEF EDWARD GIEREK NEW CREDITS REPORTEDLY WORTH ALMOST
\$1.5 BILLION. POLAND'S COMMUNISTS HAVE ANNOUNCED A MAJOR
CUTBACK IN PLANNED INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES, CONFESSING THIS
HAS BEEN FORCED BY THE NEED TO IMPORT LARGE QUANTITIES OF
FOOD. AND IN A MAJOR SPEECH EARLIER THIS MONTH, MR.
GIEREK CALLED ON THE POLISH NATION FOR PATIENCE AND DISCI-
PLINE, SCOLDED HIS PARTY'S MEMBERS FOR THEIR PASSIVITY AND
BUREAUCRATIC ATTITUDES, AND WARNED OF THE IMPACT OF WESTERN
PROPAGANDA.

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3. MR. GIEREK IS TROUBLED BECAUSE A UNITED FRONT
SEEMS TO BE SPONTANEOUSLY ARISING IN POLAND, ONE SEEKING TO
CREATE A LEGAL AND EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE RULING
COMMUNISTS. COMING TOGETHER IN THIS MOVEMENT ARE WORKERS;
INTELLECTUALS AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALL UNITED IN

RESENTMENT AGAINST POLITICAL OPPRESSION AND ECONOMIC
HARDSHIPS. THE ROOTS OF THIS MOVEMENT GO BACK TO LAST
JUNE'S SUCCESSFUL WORKING CLASS REVOLT AGAINST MR. GIEREK'S
PROGRAM OF SHARP PRICE INCREASES. FORCED TO ABANDON THE
PRICE INCREASES, THE POLISH REGIME HAS SINCE BEEN
BUSILY PUNISHING MANY WORKERS WHO PUBLICLY PROTESTED AND
HELPED COMPEL WARSAW'S RETREAT.

4. NOW POLAND'S OUTSTANDING INTELLECTUALS HAVE ORGANIZED
TO HELP THE WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN JAILED OR FIRED.
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS ALSO ENTERED THE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE
FUNDS FOR THE PERSECUTED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. RANK
AND FILE WORKERS, TOO, ARE PROTESTING AGAINST THE REGIME'S
VENGEANCE. AS THESE TENSIONS RISE, IT WOULD NOT BE
SURPRISING IF THE KREMLIN BEGINS TO CONSIDER SACRIFICING
MR. GIEREK--AS WLADYSLAW GOMULKA WAS SACRIFIED IN 1970--TO
CALM POLISH ANGER BEFORE IT EXPLODES. (END TEXT) 11
ROBINSON

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